

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 DPW-01 IO-12 OMB-01 AID-20 TRSE-00 RSR-01

/141 W

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R 201201 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3711

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3062

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, VN

SUBJECT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR CHAYET' S COMMENTS ON
ATMOSPHERE IN HANOI

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO HANOI, CHAYET, SPENT
24 HOURS IN VIENTIANE, APRIL 19, ON HIS WAY BACK TO PARIS
BEFORE TAKING UP HIS DUTIES AS AMBASSADOR TO NORTH
VIETNAM. CHAYET TOLD US THAT HE IS RETURNING TO PARIS
TO PICK UP HIS LETTERS OF ACCREDITATION AND TO EMPHASIZE
HIS ELEVATION FROM DELEGATE GENERAL TO RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

2. IN REPLY TO OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN
HANOI, CHAYET SAID THAT INITIAL ATMOSPHERE OF HOPE AFTER
SIGNING OF PARIS AGREEMENT HAD GIVEN WAY TO DISTRUST OF
USG AND GVN INTENTIONS. CHAYET SAID THAT NORTH
VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS WERE PARTICULARLY BITTER ABOUT
SLOWNESS IN MINE CLEARING IN HAIPHONG HARBOR AND MORE
RECENTLY BY CESSATION OF ALL DEMINING ACTIVITIES.

3. ASKED WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT PRESS SPECULATION OF POSSIBLE
FUTURE MEETING BETWEEN TOP USG AND DRV NEGOTIATORS,
CHAYET SAID THAT HIS CONTACTS IN HANOI HAD RULED OUT
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SUCH ENCOUNTER AS " UNTIMELY". CHAYET SAID THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE CONSIDERED RECONVENING OF MEMBERS JANUARY 1973 PARIS CONFERENCE AS MORE APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DISCUSSING CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. CHAYET SAID THAT DRV OFFICIALS HAD NOTED USG' S MASSIVE TRANSFERS OF WEAPONS TO GVN BEFORE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY USG OBJECTED SO VIOLENTLY TO DRV DOING THE SAME FOR THEIR ALLY. WHEN CHAYET COUNTERED THAT MOVEMENT OF WAR MATERIAL TO SOUTH VIETNAM IS RIGIDLY PROSCRIBED IN PARIS AGREEMENT AND THAT THIS WAS REASON FOR USG OBJECTION TO DRV ACTIONS, CHAYET SAID NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS CLAIMED THAT USG COULD USE AIRPLANES TO MOVE ITEMS QUICKLY AND GET THEM INTO VIETNAM BEFORE CEASEFIRE TOOK EFFECT. HOWEVER, NORTH VIETNAM DOES NOT HAVE THESE MEANS TO MOVE EQUIPMENT AND THEREFORE DRV HAS TO FIND OTHER WAYS OF OFFSETTING USG ADVANTAGE.

3. ON LAOS, CHAYET NOTED THAT LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND HARD LINER NOUHAK WAS GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT IN HANOI DURING RECENT VISIT THERE. ACCORDING TO CHAYET, NOUHAK DEALT MOSTLY WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE HARD LINERS AND MEN ASSOCIATED WITH NEGOTIATING SUCH AS LE DUC THO WERE NOWHERE IN SIGHT.

4. CHAYET DID NOT SAY NOW LONG HE PLANNED TO REMAIN IN PARIS BUT WE OBTAINED IMPRESSION HE MIGHT SPEND UP TO THREE WEEKS IN FRENCH CAPITAL BEFORE RETURNING TO HANOI.
GODLEY

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